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1991/05/28

CHEN Yaobang
(7115/5069/6721)

CHINA

*Vice Minister, Ministry of
Agriculture (since 1988)*

Addressed as: Mr. Vice Minister



Chen Yaobang, a career agriculturalist, publically advocates using close scientific and technological cooperation with the West and developing rural and township enterprises as means to modernizing the domestic agricultural sector. According to the Chinese press, Chen sees technology as an essential element for revitalizing China's agricultural production sector. He has repeatedly encouraged rural enterprises to base their businesses in the domestic market while making inroads in the international market.

Chen was born in 1935. He earned a bachelor's degree with a specialty in plant production from the Central China Agricultural College in 1957 and spent the next five years as an assistant professor. In 1966 he completed postgraduate work in plant pathology and antibiotics for farming. During 1979-82 he served as a deputy division chief in the Cash Crops Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture. Chen served as deputy director of the Agricultural Bureau of the new Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries from 1982-84. He joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1982 and was named a deputy to the 13th National Congress in 1987. In 1984 Chen was named a deputy secretary of the Communist Party in Wuxi and served there until 1986, when he moved to Beijing as a vice minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Chen assumed his current post in 1988, when the Ministry was reorganized as the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1990 he was appointed president of the China Agricultural Technology Promotion Association and attended the 13th administrative meeting for the World Agricultural Development Foundation in Rome.

Since joining the Ministry of Agriculture in 1979, Chen has led delegations to East Germany, Zaire, and Canada.

28 May 1991